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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/777,866	02/07/2001	Alfred Heinrich	2549-6	4045
23117	7590	01/28/2004	EXAMINER	
NIXON & VANDERHYE, PC			AHMAD, NASSER	
1100 N GLEBE ROAD			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
8TH FLOOR			1772	
ARLINGTON, VA 22201-4714			DATE MAILED: 01/28/2004	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application N.	Applicant(s)
	09/777,866	HEINRICH, ALFRED
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Nasser Ahmad	1772

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 July 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-5,8,10,11 and 13-15 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) 6,7,9 and 12 is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 9 . 6) Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Rejection Withdrawn

1. Claims 1-15 rejected under 35 U.S.C 112, first paragraph for reasons of record in paper no. 7, mailed on July 11, 2003 has been withdrawn in view of applicant's response filed on July 9, 2003.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-15 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-5, 8, 10-11, 13 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Caillaut (5,530,344).

Caillaut relates to a plastic component (14) with a higher filling grade (col. 4, lines 1-5). This component is connected to a basic body (9 or 13) via an intermediary (15) made of elastic material. As shown in figure-3, the intermediary is a seal element which is known to be elastic and is embedded by a frictional and/or positive connection with at least one projection (see figure-4, #15d) in a groove or opening (see figure-4, area adjacent #14c) of the plastic component.

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The plastic component is ring or disc shaped and is a plastic bonded permanent magnet (col. 4, lines 1-5). The presence of magnetic particles would render the component to be of metal material.

As shown in figure-3, the intermediary is ring or disc shaped and is injection moldable.

The basic body (13) is provided with a bush shaped part and an outwardly extending flange (figure-3, #13a). The intermediary seal is connected to the body (13) by frictional connection (figure-4). The basic body is cylindrical shaped and has radial opening.

The intended use phrases such as "for fixing" has not been given patentable weight because said phrases are not considered to be of positive limitations.

The process of making the product has not been given patentable weight because the process is not germane to the issue of patentability of the product itself.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-5, 8, 10-11 and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Caillaut.

Caillaut, as discussed above, fails to teach that the basic body is plastic. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a plastic basic body for making it lightweight, since it has been held to be within

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the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416.

Allowable Subject Matter

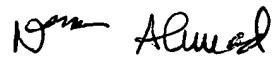
7. Claims 6-7, 9 and 12 are free of the prior art uncovered so far in that it fails to teach rivet head projections, clip joint and sealant reaching into the groove of the body.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nasser Ahmad whose telephone number is 571-272-1487. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM, and on alternate Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on 571-272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 571-308-0661.


Nasser Ahmad
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1772

N. Ahmad.
January 23, 2004.